

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 1-26 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced into the above-identified application.

The drawings have been objected to under CFR 1.83(a) on the basis that they do not show the "envelope surface region" recited in claims 1 and 10. This Response negates the necessity for an amendment of the drawings, as for example, Fig. 2 shows the surface 88 of the abutment element 68. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this objection.

Claims 1-25 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. More specifically, the Examiner held that "the envelope surface region" is not described in the specification. This rejection is now moot since the objected to recitation has been replaced by "the surface (88)", as is disclosed, for example, in the third paragraph on page 14 of the original description. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is urged.

Claims 1-25 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner held that:

- 1) a broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation is considered indefinite; the Examiner made specific reference to claim 1, line 2, claim 10, line 2, and claim 17, line 4;
- 2) Claim 1, line 14, "the formation" lacks antecedent basis;
- 3) Claim 2, line 3, "the transition" lacks antecedent basis;
- 4) Claim 2, line 3, "the wall section" lacks antecedent basis;
- 5) Claim 2, line 5, "the radially outer side" lacks antecedent basis;
- 6) Claim 3, line 3, "the transition" lacks antecedent basis;
- 7) Claim 4, line 4, "the intermediary" lacks antecedent basis;
- 8) Claim 5, line 3, "the freeing" lacks antecedent basis;

- 9) Claim 5, line 4, "the pressure" lacks antecedent basis;
- 10) Claim 5, line 4, "the plunger" lacks antecedent basis;
- 11) Claim 6, line 4, "the component assembly" lacks antecedent basis;
- 12) Claim 6, line 5, "the abutment element" lacks antecedent basis;
- 13) Claim 12, line 4, "the recess" lacks antecedent basis;
- 14) Claim 13, line 4, "the transition" lacks antecedent basis;
- 15) Claim 14, line 4, "the transition" lacks antecedent basis;
- 16) Claim 17, line 2, "the starting" lacks antecedent basis;
- 17) Claim 17, line 5, "the closed state" lacks antecedent basis;
- 18) Claim 17, line 6, "the connection" lacks antecedent basis;
- 19) Claim 23, line 3, "the free end face" lacks antecedent basis;
- 20) Claim 23, line 5, "the intermediary" lacks antecedent basis; and
- 21) Claim 24, line 2, "the end faces" lacks antecedent basis.

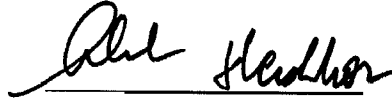
The present Amendment of the claims renders the Examiner's indefiniteness rejections moot. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Applicants wish to point out to the Examiner that the arrangement of the invention prevents the shaped parts moving until the recess in the sheet metal part has been fully drawn to its maximum depth. This is because the shaped parts abut against the surface 88 until the corresponding part has been pressed downwardly out of the engagement with the shaped parts. The subsequent radially inward movement of the shaped parts to effect the rivet connection can only take place once the recess has been fully formed. This prevents unwanted deformation of the sheet metal part in the region of the rivet joint and thus avoids faulty riveting. The prior art does not have this advantage.

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-referenced application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this matter, the undersigned may be contacted at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard HUMPERT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eugene Rzucidlo', written over a horizontal line.

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